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Thus we may summarise the position by saying that 75,000 persons with fairly high level of general or professional training are without employment.

I shall deal with the problem of unemployment when I refer to the progress of the First Five Year Plan and the programmes under the Second Five Year Plan.

I have already referred to the pressure on land in our State. In a State like Travancore-Cochin with a high density of population, the importance of settling the landless and indigent section of the population hardly requires emphasis. Attempts at solving this problem have already been made in several directions. Certain legislations conferring occupancy and proprietary rights on certain classes of occupants like the 'Edavagai Rights Acquisition Act', the 'Prevention of Eviction of Kudikidappukars' Act' etc., were brought to the Statute Book. But the main question of putting a ceiling on private holdings and giving land to the landless is still on the anvil. Pending the final solution of this problem, Government feel it advisable to place such of the available Government lands as are not required for public or Government purpose at the disposal of the deserving section of the population for their settlement. The manner in which this has to be done, the extent to which the Government can go in this direction and above all the steps to be taken for the speedy implementation of the policy etc., require detailed scrutiny. It is proposed to set up a Land Commission including non-official members to go into the details of this problem and to advise Government on the steps to be taken to implement the Scheme. The personnel of the Commission will be announced shortly.

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THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIVE YEAR PLAN.

3. Before proceeding further I intend to focus the attention of the House on the problem of Planning which looms large in the sphere of economic development.

By the end of the current financial year, we come to the close of the First Five Year Plan which leads on to the Second. The total outlay which was programmed under the First Five Year Plan was in the neighbourhood of Rs. 30 crores. The revised estimate of Plan expenditure including expenditure to be incurred by the end of the current year stands at Rs. 25.87 crores, which is 86.23% of the total. This does not include

expenditure on various programmes of development like Community Projects, opening of new schools, construction of buildings and other development expenditure which have not been specifically included in the Plan. The House will no doubt notice that the volume of finances which the State has been able to plough into development in the last five years is considerable.

Along with the completion of the First Five Year Plan, the preparation for the Second Five Year Plan has been in active progress. A State Plan which co-ordinates within itself plans proposed by local bodies and Plans prepared by Government experts was drawn up in the middle of the current year. An allotment of Rs. 75.63 crores has been made for the State's Plan by the Planning Commission. This is, of course, subject to a 5% economy cut which has been imposed on all plans, State as well as Central. Allotments under various heads like Urban Water Supply and Drainage, Flood control, Inland Navigation, Ports and Harbours, Tourism, Panchayats, Local Development works, and Educated Unemployment, are now included in Central Plans, but will be transferred to State Plans shortly. These will substantially increase the allotments made for the State Plan.

It will be noted that an allotment of this magnitude represents a substantial advance on the pace of development in the last five years, which itself, as I mentioned earlier, was rapid enough. As against Rs. 5.7 crores under Agriculture and Community Development in the First Five Year Plan, the provision in the Second Plan is Rs. 11.3 crores. Under Major Irrigation the allotment in the Second Plan is Rs. 6.50 crores as against Rs. 5.78 crores in the First Plan. The Power programme in the Second Plan would cost Rs. 23 crores as against Rs. 11.85 crores in the First Plan; and in the Transport Sector, as against Rs. 2.47 crores in the First Plan we will be spending Rs. 3.34 crores in the Second Plan. Under Industries, the First Plan provided Rs. 1.1 crores as against Rs. 6.6 crores in the Second Plan. Under Social Services like hospitals, schools, houses, etc., the allotment provided in the Second Plan is Rs. 24.94 crores. I have no doubt that development work on such a vast scale as envisaged in the Second Five Year Plan will lead our State to

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further heights of achievement in various fields and to the rapid solution of its problems of poverty and unemployment

EMPLOYMENT.

The reduction of unemployment is a major objective of the Second Five Year Plan of India and is no doubt one of the objectives of the State Plan also. It has, however, to be remembered that the present situation in the country is the result of the paucity of investment for many decades, coupled with a high rate of population growth; and that such a problem cannot be solved completely in a period of five years. The number of job-seekers in India as a whole, in the next five years, is estimated at 140 lakhs, and the number of jobs immediately required to be created has been estimated at 110 to 120 lakhs. In spite of this, it has been possible to plan employment opportunities only for about 80 lakhs.

If this is the situation in India as a whole, how much more complicated it is in this State will be easily appreciated from what I have stated earlier. The investment of Rs. 71.20 crores anticipated under the Second Five Year Plan in the next five years is expected to result in the provision of 1.45 lakhs jobs. In addition, applying the same ratio *viz.*, 1|4 as for the rest of India in respect of secondary employment, 0.36 lakhs jobs of this kind will also arise. This will be supplemented by employment under programmes like urban water supply, flood control etc., which remain to be approved. Above all, it will be supplemented substantially by Central investments which are expected to be made by the Government of India in this State.

CENTRAL INVESTMENT.

A problem of such magnitude as the unemployment problem of this State cannot be solved on a local basis. It has to be tackled on a national basis, as an all-India problem, on the basis of Central responsibility. It is gratifying to note that the Planning Commission has taken note of the intensity of the problem in this State and singled it out for specific mention in the draft of the Second Five Year Plan of India. It is also gratifying to note that the reduction of disparities in levels of development as between different regions in the country has also been accepted as one of the main directions of future developmental activity. The Planning Commission has made special mention of the need to transfer surplus agricultural

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